

**Weekly Status & Information Report:  
Week of April 21 - April 25, 2008**

1. **FY09 Budget:** The City Manager's Proposed FY09 Budget is posted to the City website at the following link:  
<http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/finance/fy09/proposed/index.html>. (City TV)
2. **THIS Saturday, April 26 - Gear Up For Safety:** Takoma Park Safe Routes, in conjunction with the Montgomery County Safe Kids Coalition, will be hosting a community health and safety fair, Gear Up for Safety, tomorrow on Saturday, April 26. The fair will be held behind the Takoma Park Community Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Highlights of the fair will be a bike rodeo, where participants will enter a raffle to win one of 20 bikes to be given away by the Takoma Park Police Department. Brand new child identification technology will be launched at the fair, complete with a take home CD for each registrant courtesy of the Montgomery County Masons. The Maryland State Highway Administration will set up a realistic crosswalk simulation activity. Impact Silver Spring and the Montgomery County Health Promoters will provide on the spot translation in Spanish and Amharic. And much, much more! (*Housing and Community Development*)
3. **THIS Sunday, April 27 - Closing Reception "Bobbi Kittner: recent works"**  
**Exhibit:** Please join the Arts and Humanities Commission in Gallery Three from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, April 27 for a celebration of the work of local artist Bobbi Kittner. Kittner's work - a collection of assemblage art using playskool blocks and found objects - has been on display in Gallery Three on the third floor of the Takoma Park Community Center. Bring your kids and play treasure hunt bingo while visiting Bobbi's crazy, funny world. The reception is free and open to the public. (*Housing and Community Development*)
3. **Opening Reception, Friday, May 2 - "Reflected Glories: Trees in Sligo Creek"**  
**Exhibit:** The opening reception for Julius Kassovic's exhibit - "Reflected Glories: Trees in Sligo Creek" - will be held on Friday, May 2 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Atrium Gallery at the Takoma Park Community Center. "As a photographer, I have tended to look for beauty in unexcepted places. While beauty in Sligo Creek is hardly unexpected, the images that form and dissolve at the surface of the water are endlessly astounding and delightful." The reception is free and open to the public. The exhibit can be viewed throughout the month of May. (*Housing and Community Development*)
4. **Restaurant Tour (Wards 2, 3 and 6):** On Tuesday, April 22, the Housing & Community Development Department hosted a Restaurant Tour for area restaurant owners as part of the New Hampshire Avenue Corridor initiative. Participants included representatives from Tijuana's Mexican Cafe III (944 University Blvd.), Coconut Ice (1425 University Blvd.), Walia Restaurant (6846 New Hampshire Avenue), and Senor Chicken (970 New Hampshire Avenue). Casey Willson, Retail/Restaurant Specialist at the Maryland Small Business Development Center, led the tour, which included stops at three area restaurants. At each stop, Mr. Willson reviewed the factors that contributed to the restaurant's success using a "Restaurant Checkup" assessment he has developed. Appetizers were ordered to give participants the opportunity to sample the cuisine and service, and finally, the restaurant's owner sat down with tour participants and discussed their business operation. Participants were given contact information for all tour hosts,

as well as Casey Willson, if they want to further explore ideas gained from the tour.  
(*Housing and Community Development*)

**5. Purple Line and Takoma/Langley Bus Transit Station Meetings:** Two important meetings have been scheduled by the Maryland Transit Administration for next week. On Monday, April 28 from 7-9 pm, there will be a meeting about the Purple Line at the Round House Black Box Theater, 8641 Colesville Rd., Silver Spring. The meeting will include the latest Purple Line alternative routes, reports on additional studies that have been conducted, and new animations and graphics. On Tuesday, April 29 from 5:30 to 8:00 pm (with a presentation at 6:30 pm), there will be an open house on the Takoma/Langley Crossroads Transit Center. Your comments on the design of the bus facility at the site of the current Taco Bell on University Boulevard are desired. Both the Purple Line meeting and the bus transit station meeting are important since critical design decisions are being made on these projects. Contact Michael Madden at [mmadden@mtamaryland.com](mailto:mmadden@mtamaryland.com) or 410-767-3694 for more information. (*Deputy City Manager*)

**6. Takoma Metro:** The scheduled April 28 vote on a resolution concerning the City Council's position on the Takoma Metro development has been postponed. The resolution urging the Federal Transit Administration to disapprove the sale of land at the Takoma Metro was passed on April 21 and is on the City's website at [www.takomaparkmd.gov/documents/metro](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/documents/metro). The D.C. Government is working with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments on a special study of multi-modal access to the area around the Takoma Metro. That study will primarily look at bike and pedestrian access to and near the station. More information on this study will be available in May. (*Deputy City Manager*)

**7. Visit by Guatemalan Mayor:** Mayor Roel de Jesus Perez Argueta of Ipala, Chiquimula, Guatemala will be meeting with Mayor Bruce Williams and other City and community leaders on Friday, April 25. Mayor Perez, accompanied by Professor Irayda Ruiz, has spent several days this week meeting with Prince George's County Executive Jack Johnson, visiting people and organizations in the Langley Park community, and meeting with people originally from Ipala who live in this area. On Saturday night, a community meeting of 400 people from Ipala is planned to take place at La Union Mall on University Boulevard. The original plan to hold the meeting in the Community Center was changed to accommodate the large number of people expected. Welcome Mayor Perez and Professor Ruiz! (*Deputy City Manager*)

**8. The Día Program:** The Library's second annual multicultural celebration of children and books drew more than 60 people-- including lots of little ones -- on Saturday, April 19 from 10:00 p.m. - 12:00 p.m. The celebration, formally called "El Día de los Niños/ El Día de los Libros" ("Celebrating Children and Books"), is part of a national program sponsored by the American Library Association and generally scheduled on or near International Children's Day on April 30. Our "Día" celebration was funded by the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library, and starred local storyteller Diane Macklin, who held the crowd spellbound with her tale of "Juan Bobo," and other stories. The program ended with crafts for all. As an added bonus, every child participant was given a brand new book to take home. We plan to continue this "Día" program next year, and add even more features. (*Library*)

9. **Spring Dreams:** To celebrate National Poetry Month, local poets Rosanne Singer and Liz Rees led 20 young participants in a program on Monday evening, April 20, to create poems centered on feelings inspired by spring. The young poets first created poems by choosing an emotion (i.e. happiness) and writing what that feeling meant to them. Fifth grader Ryan Miller wrote: "Happiness for baseball./Happiness for tomato plants./ Happiness for tulips./ Happiness for Dogs./ Happiness for Spring./ Happiness for the Red Sox./ Happiness for Ice Cream." Then the poets chose a spring "thing" - flower, jump rope, etc. - and wrote about what feelings that thing would have. Here's "Jump Rope" by 10-year-old Jordan Dewar (who created her poem in the shape of a jump rope): "Curled up in a box, I wish I could see the buds of tulips and feel the blacktop on my back, and hear rhymes chanted as I swing around and around in the air." We'll be displaying some of the poetry in the Children's Room for the next month. Thanks to the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library for sponsoring the program. *(Library)*

10. **Twosies:** We have a few spaces in our "Twosies" program, which begins May 7. The program will run each Wednesday in May from 10-10:30 a.m. and is aimed at two-year-olds and their grown-ups. We read stories, sing songs, and end with a simple craft. For more information, or to register, call 301-891-7259. You can also register by emailing [takomag@gmail.com](mailto:takomag@gmail.com) (please put "twosies" in the subject line). *(Library)*

11. **Favorite Poem Evening:** Thirty people gathered in the library's Children's Room on Thursday evening, April 24, for the annual "Favorite Poem Evening." The evening, a beloved Takoma Park tradition, was hosted by Takoma Park Poet Laureate Anne Becker and sponsored by the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library. Each participant brought a poem or more to share; the poems ranged from "Ithaca" by Constantine P. Cavafy to "The Tyger" by William Blake to "Odes for Everyone/Odas de Todo el Mundo" by Pablo Neruda. The Friends are sponsoring a related activity this coming Sunday, April 27, at the Takoma Park Farmer's Market, where people will be encouraged to read aloud some of the poems that were chosen for this year's "Spring For Poetry" project. *(Library)*

12. **Meetings:** On April 23, Chief Ricucci attended the Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission (CJCC) meeting. Also on April 23, Chief Ricucci and Mr. Van Wagenen, Accreditation Manager, attended the Public Safety Committee Meeting, and Capt. Coursey attended the Council of Governments (COG) meeting. *(Police)*

13. **Training:**

- On April 20 through April 24, PIO Catherine Plevy attended Public Information Officer (PIO) training at the Ocean City Police Department in Ocean City, Maryland. This training was offered by Chris Ryan, Ryan and Associates Public Relations, an intensive media relations training, which teaches essential skills needed to understand and deal with local, national and international news media, information officer mastery, media relations, crime scene and crisis communications skills, legal and media ethics, interview and news conference preparation.
- On April 21 through April 22, Administrative Supervisor Denise Pullet attended Records Management System (RMS) training in Rockville, Maryland.
- On April 21 through April 25, Crime Analyst Kyleen Luy attended Intelligence Analysis Training in Gaithersburg.
- On April 23, Cpl. Robert Rodriguez attended training entitled "Montgomery County Police Department County-Wide Alcohol Enforcement Campaign" in Gaithersburg, Maryland. This is a multi-jurisdictional prom/graduation season task force designed to

reduce the number of alcohol related collisions while combating the underage consumption of alcohol. The task force will be conducted starting April 23, 2008, through May 31, 2008.

- On April 24 through 25, various police personnel attended training entitled "Automated External Defibrillator (AED) & CPR Training Re-certification Class."
- On April 25, Sgt. Poole, Pvt. Brown and Pvt. Hoetzel attended mobile data training class entitled "MDC CAD/Map" training in Germantown. (*Police*)

**14. Traffic Enforcement:** Officers conducted at least 140 traffic stops, which resulted in citations, and four (4) vehicle impounds.

***During the week of April 18-25, 2008, the following details were completed:***

*April 18*

- 7100 block of New Hampshire Avenue (speeding) - conducted a one (1) hour detail and issued four (4) speed citations and one (1) warning.
- New Hampshire Avenue and Larch Avenue (speeding) - conducted a half hour detail - no citations issued.

*April 19*

- 1100 block of University Blvd. (speeding) - conducted a half hour detail - no citations issued.

*April 20*

- 7100 block of New Hampshire Avenue (speeding) - conducted a one (1) hour detail and issued two (2) speed citations and one (1) warning.

*April 21*

- 4th Avenue and Poplar Avenue (no left turn) - conducted a half hour detail and issued five (5) warnings.

*April 22*

- Maple Avenue and Sherman Avenue (stop sign) - conducted a one (1) hour detail and no citations were issued, one (1) Field Interview Report (FIR) was issued for a suspicious person.

*April 23*

- 4th Avenue and Cockerille Avenue; 4th Avenue and Alleghany Avenue (stop signs) - conducted a one (1) hour detail and no citations were issued.
- Grant Avenue and Holly Avenue (pedestrian safety) - conducted a three and a half (3 ½) hour detail and no violations were issued.
- Laurel Avenue and Carroll Avenue (no turn on red) - conducted a one (1) hour detail and no citations were issued.
- Lockney Avenue and Hammond Avenue (violations of traffic circle) - conducted a one (1) hour detail and issued one (1) state citation and two (2) warnings.
- Lincoln Avenue and Elm Avenue (violations of traffic circle) - conducted a forty-five (45) minute detail and no citations were issued.
- 7100 block of New Hampshire Avenue (speeding) - conducted a two (2) hour detail and issued two (2) speed citations and two (2) warnings.

*April 24*

- 4th Avenue and Poplar Avenue (no left turn) - conducted a half hour detail and issued one (1) warning.
- Holly Avenue and Grant Avenue (pedestrian safety) - conducted a forty-five (45) minute detail and no citations were issued. (*Police*)

15. **The Newsletter:** The May Takoma Park Newsletter is now published and will be distributed to all City households over the next week. Residents who do not receive a Newsletter by Saturday, May 3rd are invited to call 301-891-7118 or send an email to [LonniM@takomagov.org](mailto:LonniM@takomagov.org) with your name and address. The Newsletter is also available for reading on the City website

<http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/news/newsletter/2008/may08.pdf>. (City TV)

16. **Mocha Moms and Cappuccino Caretakers:** Fifteen tots and seven caretakers participated in the new program, Mocha Moms and Cappuccino Caretakers, on Tuesdays 10:45 - 11:45 a.m. The program was developed to accommodate patrons who gather at the community center after story time in the library. The Azalea Room was transformed into a tot playground with tubes to climb through and blocks to stack. The next meeting of Mocha Moms and Cappuccino Caretakers will take place on April 29 at 10:45 a.m. (Recreation)

17. **Buggy Brigade:** On a beautiful Thursday, April 24, Buggy Brigade got kick started with 4 participants. The walking group left the Community Center on their way to Heffner Community Center and back. The next walk on May 1 will be to Sligo Creek Parkway and begin at 10:45. Meet in the lobby of the Community Center. (Recreation)

18. **A Failure to Communicate:** City TV is experiencing periodic equipment failure from the Comcast provided fiber transmitter which results in intermittent loss of sound on the channel. We are working with Comcast to remedy this situation. (City TV)

19. **Energy Savers:** City TV aired Saving Energy At Home this past Wednesday night. It will replay on City TV next month, and is also available for viewing on-line: [http://takomapark.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish\\_id=63](http://takomapark.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish_id=63). (City TV)

20. **Snapshots:** City TV crews will also be filming at Saturday's Gear Up for Safety event at the Community Center for a future Snapshots episode. (City TV)

21. **The Azalea Awards:** On Saturday, April 26, City TV will air the Azalea Awards live, with replays scheduled for May. It will also be available for viewing online. (City TV)